GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:816
ANSWERED ON:06.12.2004
EXTINCTION OF SEA HORSE
Gandhi Smt. Maneka

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether `SeaHorse` declared as endangered species among the marine lives in India has been facing extinction;

(b) if so, the details of marine species categorized as endangered species since 1990-91;

(c) whether any survey has been conducted in the recent past with a view to find out the current population of these species;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether a ship sailing from Chennai to Singapore was apprehended recently for unauthorizedly possessing large volume of Sea Horses;

(f) if so, the details thereof;

(g) the action taken, if any, against the crew members as well as the owners of the ship; and

(h) the fate the SeaHorses cargo met with?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA)

(a) and (b) `Sea Horse` has been categorized as endangered due to illegal capture, habitat destruction and over exploitation. The details of the marine species categorized as endangered species since 1991 are at Annexure.

(c) & (d) A preliminary study of Sea Horse fishing has been conducted by Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute along the Palk Bay coast of Tamil Nadu recently. The Sea Horse population is threatened by over fishing and clandestine trade. But consequent upon the ban by Government of India for some of the marine fisheries and their export, the targeted fishing has also reduced drastically.

(e) to (f) No, Sir. The ship has not been apprehended. On the basis of specific intelligence inputs, Directorate of Revenue Intelligence recalled the container no. EOLU 3280812 covered under Shipping Bill No. 0057 dated 17.6.2004 in the name of M/s Nayagara Impex, Chennai, from Singapore. The consignment originating from Chennai was billed as Sannam Red Chillies. 76 bags of dried Sea Horses and 7 bags of Red Chillies were seized under the Customs Act, 1962 on 23.7.2004. The produced is valued at Rs. 2.68 crores.

(g) Does not arise.

(h) The seized cargo viz dried seahorses is lying in Chennai Container Terminal Limited (CCIL) under the custody of Custom House, Chennai.

Annexure referred to in reply to part (b) of the Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 816 for 6.12.2004 regarding Extinction of Sea Horse

MARINE SPECIES CATEGORIZED AS ENDANGERED SINCE 1990-91

Sl.No. Name of Species

1. Whale Shark (Rhincodon typus)

2. Anoxypristis cusidata

3. Carcharyhinus hemidon

4. Glyphius gangeticus

5. Glyphius glyphius
6. Himantura fluviatillis

7 Pristis microdon

8. Pristis zjisron

9. Rhynchobatus djiddensis
10. Urogymnus asperrimus
11. Cassis comuta
12. Charonia tritonis
13. Conus malneedwardsi
14. Cypracasis rufa
15. Hippopus hippopus
16. Nautilus pompilus
17. Tridacna squamosa
18. Tridacna maxima
19. Tudicla spiralis
20. Cypraea lamacina
21. Cyprae mappa
22. Cypraea talpa
23. Fasciolaria trapazium
24. Harpulina arausica
25. Lambis chiragra
26. Lambis chiragraarthitica
27. Lambis crocea
28. Lambis millepeda
29. Lambis scorplus
30. Lambis truncata
31. Placenta placenta
32. Strombus pilcatus sibbaldi
33. Trochus niloticus
34. Turbo mamopratus
35. Shark and Ray (All Elasmobranchii)
36. Sea Horse (All Sygnathidians)
37. Goamt Grouper (Epinephelus lanceolatus)
38. Reef Building Coral (All Scleractinians)
39. Black Coral (All Antipatharians)
40. Organ Pipe Coral (Tubipora musica)
41. Fire Coral (All Milllipora Species)
42. Sea Fans (All Gorgonians)
43. Sea Cucumbers (All Holothurians)
44. Sponges (All Calacareans)